Railway Gates between Rangiya and Guwahati

6289. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that two Railway gates between Rangiya and Guwahati in Assam create bottleneck on road transport that leads to great inconvenience to road users; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to build over-bridges at these Railway gates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Road Over Bridges at both the places have been approved in Railway Budget 1996-97. Required formalities are being fulfilled with State Govt.

Wagon Induction Programme

6290. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated follow up action on its decision for wagon induction programme, synchronisation of plan with the ministries of coal, steel and industries:

(b) if so, the details of action plan formulated for 1997-98 for implementation of the decision; and

(c) the details regarding present status of implementation of the decision and progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The target for freight traffic planned to be lifted in a year is decided in consultation with the various User Ministries e.g. Coal, Steel, Industries, Petroleum etc. The number of wagons proposed to be inducted in the system in a year depends upon the likely transport output, wagon utilisation, etc.

(b) and (c) It has been planned to induct 26,000 wagons (in four wheeler units) in 1997-98. Action has already been initiated in this regard.

Criteria for Laying New Railway Lines

6291. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted and followed for laying new railway lines in the country;

(b) whether remunerative aspect is taken as a criteria for laying new railway lines;

(c) if so, the number of such new lines have become remunerative during each of the last three years, Zone/State-wise; and

(d) the steps contemplating by the Government in respect of non remunerative railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The criteria for construction of new lines being followed on the railways is based on the recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee, dated May, 1990, which had laid down the following criteria for taking up construction of new lines:

1. Project oriented lines to serve new industries for tapping mineral and other resources.
2. Missing links for complete alternative routes to relieve congestion on existing saturated routes.
3. Lines required for strategic reasons; and
4. Lines for establishment of new growth centers or giving access to remote areas.

Further, remunerative aspect is also taken into consideration while laying new railway lines.

(b) Yes, Sir. This is one of the criteria.

(c) Only one project i.e. Haridaspur-Paradip on South Eastern Railway in Orissa.

(d) Some non-remunerative railway lines are also taken up in the interest of the development of backward areas.

Shortage of Coaches

6292. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of coaches in all the trains running on Quilon-Madras meter-gauge line in Madurai Division;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have provided more coaches for shuttle and superfast trains on Quilon-Madras metergauge line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. All the trains are running as per their normal scheduled composition.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, for clearance of extra rush, additional coaches are attached as and when required.

Postal Facilities in Village Panchayat, Bihar

6293. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *ALIAS* PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village Panchayats in Bihar where post offices facilities are available, district-wise;

(b) the time limit fixed for making available such facilities in each village Panchayat;

(c) the number of such post offices in village Panchayats wherein telegraph facility is available and the details of scheme for extending this facility; and

(d) the district-wise details of schemes for making available speed-post services in the major cities of the State alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of village panchayats in Bihar where Post Offices facilities are available, is 8254. The details of number of village panchayats with post offices district-wise is shown in Statement-I

(b) There is a target of 40 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 5 Departmental Sub Post Offices for the year 1997-98 which are likely to be opened during the current year. Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plans on norm based justification subject to availability of targets and resources.

(c) The number of post offices in Village Panchayats wherein telegraph facility is available, is 3394.

The scheme for extending this Telegraph Facility is based on demand and justification of volume of total telegraph traffic of that station.

(d) The places where speed-post facility is available, in Bihar are given at in the enclosed Statement-II

Introduction of Speed Post facility is an ongoing process and it is provided on the basis of commercial viability and operational feasibility of the service at a particular place. At present there is no pending scheme to extend Speed Post service to more places in Bihar.

Statement-I

Details of number of village Panchayats with Post Offices, District-wise in Bihar.

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	Number of Village Panchayats
1	2	3
1.	Saran	287
2.	Vaishali	153
3.	Bhojpur	205
4.	Buxar	131
5.	Gaya	190
6.	Nawada	122
7.	Jahanabad	116
8.	Nalanda	227
9.	Bhagalpur	184
10.	Banka	106
11.	Patna	241
12.	Begusarai	204
13.	Khagaria	112
14.	Darbhanga	252
15.	East Champaran	286
16.	West Champaran	265
17.	Madhubani	306
18.	Munger	80
19.	Lakhisarai	72
20.	Sheikhpura	33
21.	Jamui	108
22.	Mazaffarpur	281
23.	Araria	154
24.	Katihar	173
25.	Kishangaj	85
26.	Purnia	170
27.	Saharsa	145
28.	Madhepura	160
29.	Supaul	149
30.	Siwan	237
31.	Gopalganj	170
32.	Sitamarhi	238
33.	Sheohar	12
34.	Samastipur	281
35.	Dumka	122
36.	Pakur	46
37.	B. Deoghar	66
38.	Godda	93
39.	Sahibganj	93
40.	Aurangabad	170
41.	Palamau	102
42.	Garhwa	22
43.	Hazaribagh	154

1	2	3
44.	Koderma	51
45.	Chatra	76
46.	Giridih	174
47.	West Singhbhum	174
48.	East Singhbhum	110
49.	Ranchi	251
50.	Gumla	168
51.	Lohardaga	61
52.	Dhanbad	69
53.	Bokaro	93
54.	Rohtas	159
55.	Babhua	65
	Total	8254

Statement-II

Speed Post Centres on National Network

(i) Patna

(ii) Ranchi

(iii) Jamshedpur

(iv) Dhanbad

Speed Post Centres on point to point service

Sl. No.	Name of Centres	Linked to Cities	Vice Versa of Single
1	2	3	4
1.	Patna	Darbhanga	Vice Versa
2.	-do-	Katihar	-do-
3.	-do-	Begusarai	-do-
4.	-do-	Motihari	-do-
5.	-do-	Purnea	-do-
6.	-do-	Bettiah	-do-
7.	-do-	Munger	-do-
8.	-do-	Giridih	-do-
9.	-do-	B.S. City	-do-
10.	-do-	Gaya	-do-
11.	-do-	Siwan	-do-
12.	-do-	Bhagalpur	-do-
13.	-do-	Muzaffarpur	-do-
14.	Giridih	Calcutta	-do-
15.	B.S. City	Calcutta	-do-
16.	B.S. City	Dhanbad	-do-
17	-do-	Ranchi	-do-
18.	Patna	Arah	-do-
19.	Patna	Jahanabad	-do-

Linking of Srinagar with Rail

6294. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link Srinagar in the railway map;

(b) if so details and the present status of the said project; and

(c) the estimated number of tunnels and bridges to pass through in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramula new line project (290 kms.) has been sanctioned in 1994-95 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1900.00 crores. CCEA had accorded its 'in principle' approval for implementation of this project in phases. The work of first phase between Udhampur and Katra has been taken up for which Rs. 75.00 crores have been allocated during 1997-98. Final Location Survey from Katra to Baramula has been taken up by the Railway.

(c) About 81 Nos. of tunnels and 223 Nos. of bridges.

Loss Suffered by the Telecom Department

6295. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loss suffered by communication department due to the theft of cable and other departments equipment during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and till date;

(b) the number of reports of theft lodged by the department in this regard during the said period; and

(c) the steps being taken by the department to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will laid on the Table of the House.